

The Signature

Sigonella, Sicily

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First termers' workshop gives Sailors tools for success

By JOSH STEVE WEAVER
Staff Writer

Sailors on their first enlistment may have questions about the Navy that they may have wanted to ask, but just didn't get around to it.

What's the best way to advance in the Navy? How do I become an officer? What belongs in my service record?

A first termers success workshop held on March 25, at the theater on NAS I, answered these questions, and presented things the first term Sailor may not have known about that can help them succeed in the Navy.

The workshop covered a wide array of things such as service records, Navy Knowledge Online, the Navy Advancement system, officer programs, and the Perform to Serve program.

These workshops were started to give first termers an edge in their careers. "First termers traditionally have always had a lot of questions when it came time to making career decisions," said NC1 (AW) Tony Carter, a NASSIG command career counselor. "This was a way to try to fill in the blanks for them. It helps them establish a vocabulary of terminology for Navy programs and gives them some idea of things that are available."

The topics presented during the course give first termers something to think about "It basically gives them a base to build upon," said Carter. "Usually the information that we put out starts up all these additional questions. It's starts the dialog for new folks."

Some in attendance found the new Navy Knowledge Online website interesting. SK3 Betsy Ruiz of Supply didn't know about the site before the workshop. "It's a good thing, the way everything is all put together on one site," she said. She added that she is going to check out the site.

The NKO website is a resource tool that provides sail-
First Termers, page 6

Bloom where planted

By AN MICHELLE HARTGRAVES
Staff Writer



Giving to others should be second-nature to most people. For some people it is their job to give—to others it is something they enjoy doing every-day of their life.

In an office with tall dark wooden bookshelves lined with books of all shapes and sizes sits a man at his desk. To him it is not only his job to be a people person but also his desire to give to others he meets on his way.

This man is seen everywhere either saying hi to everyone that crosses his path or in his office with the doors open to any one who stops by. Who is this man—
Chaplain, page 9

Agent fights clock, earns DoD award

By JOSH STEVE WEAVER



Dummy grenades line the windowsill of his office on Naval Air Station Sigonella. American flags, coins, name tags, little Carabinieri cars, and other artifacts sit atop his tables. Awards, commendations, pictures, and symbols of the Marine Corps line his walls. The office exudes a sense of accomplishment and represents someone who does his job well and takes pride in that job.

The man behind the desk in this office has a job to do, and that job is to ensure that others remain safe. For doing his job, and doing it very well, the man behind this desk can add another prestigious award to his wall.

Joe Pizzino, a Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) Special Agent, has won the 2002 Department of Defense Counter Intelligence Award for Collections. This award is a national level award. Pizzino said there are

thousands of people throughout the DOD who vie for the award. These include the armed services, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), Army Military Intelligence (MI), Office of Scientific Intelligence (OSI), the Pentagon, and many other agencies. It includes intelligence personnel who maintain a presence throughout the world.

"My job is collecting counter intelligence, counter terrorism, and criminal threat information which could have an impact on U.S. servicemembers, DOD civilians, contract employees, and their dependents assigned to Naval Air Station Sigonella," said Pizzino. "I basically make a report out of it, and send it out to a myriad of different agencies." Pizzino said these agencies include NAVEUR, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), every fleet, and many other agencies all over the world. It is not just the quantity of these information intelligence (IIR) reports that

counts, but the quality of the reports.

"A lot of my job is also conducting liaison, and establishing a working rapport with host nation law enforcement and anti-terrorism agencies," said Pizzino.

Along with collecting information, Pizzino also does investigations. A big case Pizzino is working on currently is the Motor Vessel "SARA" Case, in which 15 Pakistanis are in jail awaiting trial for terrorism association. He is working with Italian Polizia di Stato, Scotland Yard, U.S. Law Enforcement, Spanish, French, Romanian, Greek, and Moroccan authorities on the case.

Pizzino entered the Marine Corps in 1977 and served four years on active duty and then went straight the reserves. He is currently a Colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve. "It's the greatest thing I ever did,"

said Pizzino. "The reserves are outstanding. To get out and stay in the reserves, it just doesn't get any better."

"He's every ounce a Marine as a figure in our minds of a typical Marine officer," said Sal Lomonaco, NCIS Special Operations Specialist.

Starting out as a special agent at Earle Naval Weapons Station in New Jersey, Pizzino has since served 14 and a half years as a NCIS special agent at NAS Sigonella.

He also has been doing the same things he does as a NCIS agent for the Marine Corps for the past four years. This includes arriving at an area of operation before the troops get there, establishing rapport, gathering threat information, disseminating the information when the troops arrive, and making sure the troops are safe during the exercise. "That's what NCIS

I like it so much that everyday I hope the clock moves slower. The days go by like hours ... I like Mondays because I have the whole week ahead of me.

NCIS Special Agent Joe Pizzino

agents do," said Pizzino.

He is very committed to the job he performs, but his family comes first. "Outside of my family, my work is very important to me," Pizzino said, "Because I realize the importance of it ... it can save lives."

"He's completely absorbed by the task at hand," said Lomonaco. "He's a staunch patriot, dedicated to his profession and equally dedicated to his family." Lomonaco also added the words diligent, precise, and thorough to describe Pizzino.

Pizzino considers Lomonaco, who inhabits the office next door to him, a mentor. "He has taught me a lot,
NCIS, page 6

Making Life A Little Safer While Overseas

By JOSH STEVE WEAVER
Staff Writer

With the recent events happening in the world such as the protests, demonstrations, and other goings-on, life can seem a little dangerous while living overseas.

Does this mean everyone should lead a life sheltered under the protection our bases provide? Of course not, but there are certain things to keep in mind to deter those who have bad intentions in mind.

Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) Intelligence Operations Specialist Sal Lomonaco said there has been some anti-American descent due to current happenings. "It's rare, but it has shown its head," said Lomonaco.

Terrorists groups and common criminals are out there, so consider blending in while out and about traveling. Keep your head on a swivel and get to know your surroundings. If confronted, look for a way to leave the area and call security or the police immediately. Avoid wearing clothing with military logos or anything to make it obvious you are a foreigner. This will help you avoid catching the attention of someone with a grudge against Americans, and works equally well on those pesky pick-pocketers. "Keep a low profile, no matter where you are," said Lomonaco. "And do not advertise your military affiliation."

It is advisable to steer clear of demonstrations as well. "You never know what their purpose is," said Lomonaco. "We don't want people finding that the demonstration could get violent."

Also avoid traveling in large groups. The current policy at NASSIG states that until further notice, active duty, DOD civilians and dependants are authorized to conduct off-base activities and trips on the Island of Sicily and on mainland Italy, provided the group is less than 50 people, without prior approval from NASSIG commanding officer. This policy exists, Lomonaco added, "Because you're easily identifiable, the concept is to lower your target."

Discussing politics with people you don't know is also not advisable. "These kind of discussions can flair tempers in an overseas environment," said Lomonaco. It is best to avoid confrontations. "When we address the U.S. community, our main recommendation to them is to remain non-confrontational."

But how does crime here compare to the United States? Lomonaco said the crime rate, particularly the violent crime rate, is lower here in Italy than back in the States. "Property crime is the most prevalent, and the biggest threat, to the Sigonella community," said Lomonaco.

Common sense and logic can help guard against these types of crimes.

Common sense actions like removing personal items while parking somewhere unfamiliar are advisable. Lomonaco said U.S. cars are vandalized at a higher rate than others. "This is because sometimes Americans leave a number of items in their cars," he said. Some precautions to take include locking up personal items like CD collections, cameras, and laptops in the trunk to take them out of view of would-be criminals. But most importantly, don't leave sensitive items such as ID cards, ramp badges, or passports in vehicles. Also, don't leave military uniforms in plain sight, and

travel between bases and to your residence in civilian clothing.

Lomonaco said that the AFI plates are a giveaway that the owner is military affiliated, but said this situation might change in the future. "There is going to be directives for removal of these plates and base stickers," he said.

There are also precautions to take while living off base. Although apartments are for the most part anonymous, there are still ways to tell who's inside. "Barbecue grills and things of that nature stored on a porch can giveaway that you're American," said Lomonaco. He also said name tags on a buzzer can be a giveaway. Substituting your name with a number or another name can be a better option. "It's all about lowering your visibility," he said. Also make sure your home is well lit and your gates, windows, and doors are secure. This will not only help against theft, but other threats as well.

Some think avoiding businesses with an American connotation such as McDonalds may be a good thing, but Lomonaco said this isn't true. "The U.S. presence here is well accepted," he said. "There have been no acts directed toward those types of organizations."

The recent demonstration here at Sigonella on March 23 speaks well of this area. It was one of the largest demonstrations ever seen at Sigonella at around 5,500 people. "In spite of the large numbers, the demonstration was civil with no violence," Lomonaco said. "Descent with U.S. policy didn't turn into violence with a large group."

All these measures are sound advice at anytime while living overseas. So get out there and explore this wonderful island of Sicily, but do it safely.



Security personnel questions a driver during a random car inspection at Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella's front gate as fellow security person looks for hidden objects under a vehicle.

Today's Hometown Weather

Troy, IL



High 71° F - Low 51° F
Partly Cloudy



Direct Line

Capt. Tim Davison
NASSIG
Commanding Officer

In 2002, we had a total of 664 accidents, that’s roughly about 1.8 accidents a day.

As of April 7, we have been plagued with 229 traffic accidents. That is an average of 2.4 accidents a day. Now some days, we do not have any accidents, but one day a couple of weeks ago, we had 6! A few good days can be ruined by one really bad day on the roads. I want to talk about speed, seatbelts, drinking, cell phones and driving in Sicily.

Each of us should take a moment to think about what we are doing behind the wheel of our cars. We all have jobs, friends or families to take care of here at NASSIG. None of our responsibilities, jobs, friendships, or family issues requires us to speed or drive recklessly. Speeding and driving irresponsibly is risky behavior, placing everything we work for and value in jeopardy. Remember, most of our cars have the speedometer in miles per hour not kilometers per hour. On base for example 30 kph turns out to be about 18 mph. That’s a big difference!

Seat belt requirements are international. According to Italian and Navy regulations, seat belts are required for the driver and all passengers. Many of the traffic related fatalities at NASSIG could have been avoided had seat belts been worn. But I routinely see our young Sailors driving either their own vehicles or one of their departmental vehicles on the base without using their seatbelts. Buckle up Sigonella!

We all know that drinking and driving does not mix. Yet some of our Sailors continue tipping the bottle and getting behind the wheel. Sailors with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 will be placed on Liberty Risk either with NASSIG department representatives, or if they are from a tenant command, the Sailor will be turned over to their command. According to the Naval Safety Center, most states consider a motor-vehicle operator to be impaired or under the influence with a BAC between 0.03 and 0.05 percent. Never operate a motor vehicle when impaired. Utilize the designated driver program, on base MWR provides free non-alcoholic beverages for the designated driver. Security can also assist, give them a call and they will ensure you get home safely.

Finally, let me address cell phone use. Trying to dig a cell phone out of a gym bag in the back seat is a real challenge while operating a vehicle at 100kph. Just think about the risk factors moving at 88 feet a second while rotated to retrieve a cell phone! The challenge can be fatal. Very few calls in a lifetime can’t wait a few minutes for an answer. Use good judgment and pull over before answering the phone. A few minutes lost pulling over may save you from a lifetime of suffering or death. Not only is this exercising good judgment, it’s the law. Base policy and Italian Law prohibit cell phone use while driving.

I think if we use our heads and think about what we are doing behind the wheel, we can make sure that nothing happens in front of the wheel. Keep your speed down, stay off the phones, don’t drink and drive and buckle up!

The Pulse

Fever in children

Anyone who has children knows that with childhood comes fever. Fever is the body’s natural defense against bacteria and viruses, and turns on the body’s immune system. It is a symptom, not a disease. Fever is actually a good thing. Your child has a fever if

- The rectal temperature is over 101°F (38.4°C)
- Oral temperature is over 101°F (38.4°C)
- Rectal temperature in infant less than two months over 100.4°F (38°C)

It is important to actually take the child’s temperature. Parents often come to the hospital stating their child has a fever, but when questioned state they didn’t actually take the temperature but the child “felt warm”. Many things can cause a child to feel warm including exercise, play, warm weather or excessive clothing.


Most fevers with a viral illness range from 101°F to 104°F and last for three to four days. In general, how high the temperature gets does not relate to the seriousness of the illness. **How sick your child acts is what counts.** Fever causes no permanent harm until it reaches 107°F (41.7°C). Fortunately, the brain’s thermostat keeps untreated fevers below this level. In viral illness there is no “quick fix” medication. The virus simply needs to run its course over several days as the body’s immune system fights the illness.

Parents and caregivers often worry that a child will have a seizure related to the fever (febrile seizure). These seizures are not caused by the fever itself but rather by the rapid rise, or conversely, the rapid descent of the fever. For example, a child could potentially have a seizure if the temperature were to quickly rise to 102°F when it was only 97°F 20 minutes earlier.

It is also important to realize that children with a fever less than three days do not necessarily need to be evaluated by their Primary Care Provider. The exception to this is an infant less than four months old. The Primary Care Provider should evaluate all fevers in children under four months old.

For children older than four months of age, if the child is behaving as usual with drinking fluids, going to the bathroom (voiding) at least six times per day and there are no other unusual symptoms, you can keep the child at home and treat with over-the-counter medications. Children’s acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Children’s Motrin) can be used for children six months of age and older. Remember that fever is a good thing and the medication is to treat the discomfort that often comes with a fever, not the fever itself. For correct medication dosages and times consult your pharmacy or Primary Care Provider.

SECURITY BLOTTER



CRIME STOPPER'S HOTLINE

624-6389

April 7 - April 13

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

Traffic accidents without injuries - 14

Traffic accident with injuries - 1

Car break-ins - 2

DUI - 1

DUI's 2003 - 19

DUI's 2002 - 35

AOSC Talent Show

The All Officers Spouses Club (AOSC) is hosting an all base Talent Show fundraiser for the purpose of raising money for the Stephen Decatur Scholarship fund. “Sigonella Idol” will be held on Saturday, April 19, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Live Wire. Currently, there are 18 vocal/instrumental acts of a wide variety. Preticket sales will be available in front of the commissary. Tickets will also be sold at the door. The ticket price per person is \$10 for E6 and below and \$15 for E7 and above. The evening will include entertainment, wine and heavy hors d’oeuvres. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the show while supporting the Stephen Decatur Scholarship Fund.

Coast Guard, Navy escort Arab aid shipment



U.S. Coast Guard photo by Tom Sperduto

The Coast Guard Cutter Adak (WPB 1333), from Sandy Hook, N.J., patrols past the Brooklyn Bridge. The Coast Guard continues to guard landmarks that may be possible targets for terrorist attacks.

From Coast Guard Forces Southwest Asia, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Public Affairs

ARABIAN GULF (NNS) — Coast Guard Cutter Wrangell (WPB 1332) and Navy Patrol Coastal ship USS Firebolt (PC 10), with embarked Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) 406, escorted the first commercially transported humanitarian aid shipment into the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr April 11.

The Motor Vessel Manar, owned by Manar Marine Services of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), delivered almost 700 tons of humanitarian aid including food, wa-

ter, first aid and transport vehicles. This aid shipment was supplied and coordinated by the UAE Red Crescent Society.

This is the fourth aid shipment to arrive in Umm Qasr since the launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The first three shipments were transported on British and Spanish naval vessels. Coalition warships including the Coast Guard’s 110-ft Patrol Boats Wrangell, Adak (WPB 1333) and Aquidneck (WPB 1309), and USS Chinook (PC 9) and Firebolt, with Coast Guard LEDETs 205 and 406, have escorted each shipment to ensure its safe arrival.

Approximately 650 Coast Guardmen and women are participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Arabian Gulf aboard four patrol boats, a high-endurance cutter, a buoy tender, two law enforcement detachments, two port security units and a harbor defense command unit.

Specific operations being conducted by Coast Guard forces include maritime interdiction operations, humanitarian aid shipment escorts, port and coastal security and oil terminal security.

For more news from around the fleet, visit the Navy NewsStand at www.news.navy.mil.

Easter Worship Opportunities

Today	Good Friday Stations of the Cross
Today	Good Friday Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
Tomorrow	Easter Vigil The First Mass of Easter
Sunday	Easter Sunday Mass

NAS I Chapel	12 p.m.
NAS I Chapel	6 p.m.
NAS I Chapel	7 p.m.
NAS I Chapel	9 a.m.
Mineo Comm. Bldg.	11 a.m.

How’d you sleep?



By Chaplain Richard Townes
Command Chaplain

You may have seen it too. The slide show of how our troops are sleeping on the decks of LHA’s and in muddy fighting holes. These images come with the heading, “How’d you sleep last night?” This really puts things in perspective.

Earlier this month I had the opportunity to visit with the Dragon Detachment of HC-4. Though their conditions were not as Spartan as the ones described above, they were not ideal either. What impressed me, however, was the manner in which our people handled their conditions.

These folks are working over 12 hour shifts without liberty and setting flight records with several missions each day. Their aircraft and crews are taxed to the maximum, yet there is relatively little complaint. Yes, they’re fatigued. Yes, they’re homesick. Yes, they’re anxious,

however, they are not letting any of this hard life get them down. Spirits remain high. They motivated and inspired this old chaplain.

Those of us back here at Sigonella sleep in comfortable beds, work without monstrous mosquito attacks, and get a little time off each week, and yet sometimes we complain. Let’s stop. Let us in the rear dig in a little deeper for the war effort remembering that it could be worse and that we really have it pretty good with all the *needed* creature comforts within our reach.

Let us also be thankful for these comforts and keep doing our jobs to the best our abilities so that life is just a little easier for folks who find themselves in similar conditions as HC-4 or the troops in the field.

My hat’s off to the people of HC-4 Dragon Det and their families, but it’s also off to every sailor and officer here on post who dutifully goes to work at his/her job each day.

The Christian Scripture says, “For everything there is a season.... a time for war, and a time for peace.” Our present time is a time of war, but peace is coming. Keep working hard so that we can once again enjoy our peacetime Navy.

NAS Sigonella Worship Opportunities

Catholic Mass
Saturday 5 p.m. Chapel (NAS II)
Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS I)
Sunday 9 a.m. in Italian 41st
Stormo Chapel (NAS II)
Sunday 11 a.m. Community Center (Mineo)

Protestant Traditional Worship
Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS II)

Protestant Worship
Sunday 9 a.m. community Center (Mineo)
Sunday 11 a.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Latter Day Saints
Sunday 1 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Church of Christ
Sunday 3:30 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Jewish Shabbat Service
Last Friday of the month 5 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Weekdays
Daily Catholic Mass 11:30 a.m. (NAS I & II Chapels)
Wednesday Protestant Bible Study
4:45 p.m. (NAS II Chapel)
For more details, call 624-4295 or 624-2947.

Commanding Officer Capt. Timothy L. Davison	Deputy Public Affairs Officer Alberto Lunetta	Staff Writer AN Michelle Hartgraves
Public Affairs Officer Lt. Steve Curry	Asst. Public Affairs Officer JO1 Craig Coleman	Staff Writer JOSN Steve Weaver
The Signature editorial office is located at: Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily PSC 812 Box 3020 FPO AE 09627. Telephone: 095-86-5440; DSN 624-5440		
Editor JO2 (SW) Brian Johnson		

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NAVY NEWS

VA reduces SGLI premiums for military and family coverage

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample,
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that premiums for the Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) will be reduced, handing military members a few extra dollars in their pockets each month.

Beginning in July, the cost for a \$250,000 policy - the maximum coverage, will drop from \$20 to \$16.25 monthly, a \$3.75 savings. The VA reports that rates for Veterans Group Life Insurance will not change.

Tom Tower, the Department of Defense's assistant director for military compensation, welcomed the reduced premiums, adding that anytime you put "more money in the pockets of military members, it's always a good result."

Premiums will also be reduced for SGLI family coverage, with rates vary-

ing among age groups.

The largest saving will go to spouses between 35 and 39 years old, whose premiums will be nearly cut in half. Servicemembers currently pay \$13.00 for a \$100,000 family policy. That policy will cost \$7.50 beginning in July - a \$5.50 savings.

The reduced rates mean a military family will save an average of \$100 a year. The VA estimates that servicemembers collectively will save about \$96 million annually in premiums, and \$42 million in family coverage premiums each year.

Tower said the reduced premiums are a result of an ongoing process to keep costs down for military members.

"The VA regularly checks to see how much is paid out versus how much is collected in premiums, and whenever it seems like they have built up premium reserves, they like to reduce premiums to keep the cost to a minimum for the member," Tower said. "Its part

of the objective of the program: to provide the lowest cost possible."

SGLI began in 1965 to meet the insurance needs of Vietnam-era servicemembers. Before SGLI, the military provided \$10,000 policies to servicemembers, and policies were available to active-duty military only.

Today, the SGLI program provides coverage of \$250,000 to active-duty servicemembers and most Reservists. Coverage of \$100,000 has also been provided for spouses of participating members with free coverage of \$10,000 for dependent children. Reduced levels of coverage may also be elected.

Information about the change in SGLI premiums can be found at www.insurance.va.gov, or call the Office of Servicemembers Group Life Insurance toll-free at 1-800-419-1473.

Navy Team On The Prowl for Chem/Bio Agents

By Doris Ryan
Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs

NORTHERN KUWAIT (NNS) — In the desert of northern Kuwait, south of the Iraqi border in a small, unobtrusive mobile field laboratory are three Navy people; a microbiologist and two advanced laboratory technicians. They are screening environmental samples for biological warfare agents, and they may be the first to find evidence that an attack has occurred.

The laboratory is equipped with advanced technology to quickly detect biological agents such as anthrax, plague, smallpox, ricin and many others.

"Our team in Kuwait has very sophisticated detection capabilities, and they will be looking for the molecular signatures of specific biologic agents," said Capt. Al Mateczun, director of the Biological Defense Research Directorate (BDRD) at the Naval Medical Research Center (NMRC), Silver Spring, Md. "Once they receive a sample, they will have an initial report in 15 minutes; if positive, they will have confirmation in 35 minutes."

Mateczun went on to explain that the team is able to detect extremely small quantities of biological agents using the tests available in the laboratory. The team can routinely analyze more than 100 samples per day.

The samples are first screened using hand-held tests developed by NMRC researchers. These are simple and sensitive tests, where the sample is mixed in a salt solution and a few drops are placed on test strips, much like a home pregnancy test. If the initial test shows a positive reading, the team uses polymerase chain reaction (PCR) based DNA analysis technology to capture the DNA signature and identify the specific agent. Most agents have a

unique signature that can be used to accurately identify them.

Mateczun's staff at the BDRD supports the field laboratory. The 44 military and civilian microbiologists, biochemists and technicians in Silver Spring have worked and trained together for years. There is a seamless line of communication that allows for real time consultation and problem solving 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Mateczun pointed out that BDRD represents a very tight, integrated program that includes everything from basic bench research to work in the field. "We are a very unique group," he said. "For example, if the field site has a problem with a test not working right, the person who designed the test is on staff at NMRC and can immediately review and resolve the problem."

The field laboratory is part of the Defense Intelligence Agency group called the Chemical Biological Intelligence Support Team. Besides staffing the field laboratory, Navy Medicine's research and development community designed the laboratory, developed the tests and produced the chemicals and reagents necessary to do the work. The laboratory was built to be highly mobile. It weighs 1,000 pounds and can be set up and operating in two hours.

"Navy Medicine has been in the lead developing rapid detection technology for biological agents," said Mateczun. "We have been doing this for years, long before it made the headlines. It may take the team in the desert less than an hour to detect a biological agent, but it took Navy Medicine R&D (research and development) over a decade to get them to that point."

For related news, visit the Navy Medicine Navy NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/mednews.

After 9 Months, Lincoln, CVW-14 Head Home

By JO1 (SW) Keith Jones
USS Abraham Lincoln Public Affairs

ABOARD USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN, At Sea. (NNS) — USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) and Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 14 are heading home for their respective home ports. A usually joyous occasion for any deployment, this is Lincoln's second time heading home on this one.

The warship was scheduled for a normal six-month deployment when it left in July to support Operations Enduring Freedom (OEF)

and Southern Watch (OSW), but was extended New Year's Day shortly after leaving a port call in Perth, Australia, only to return to Perth, and then operations in the Arabian Gulf.

The extension guarantees Lincoln to be the longest deployed carrier in three decades.

The deployment started with a lot of firsts and ended with even more. The deployment launched the first operational deployment of the F/A-18E Super Hornet and the trial run for the man overboard indicator.

It has ended up becoming the first carrier deployed for longer than nine months since 1973, saw extensive combat operations during OEF and OSW, and led the Navy's part in the opening days during the "shock and awe" campaign of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

"I'm very proud of everything this crew has accomplished," said Rear Adm. John M. Kelly, Abraham Lincoln battle group commander. "I know the extension has been tough, and everyone's missing their loved ones, but it was important for us to hold the line and support our ground troops."

In the first 17 days of OIF alone, CVW-14 aircraft dropped more than 1.3 million pounds of ordnance in support of the war.

Many Americans back home were able to catch a glimpse of Lincoln's shipboard life, thanks to the largest media embed on any ship in naval history.

At one point during OIF's opening days, Abe was home to 31 media including CNN, MSNBC, the BBC, Los Angeles Times, New York Times and a host of others.

To make it to this point of deployment, Lincoln traveled 102,816 nautical miles and used a record 21 million gallons of JP-5 jet fuel to launch and recover aircraft an amazing 12,673 times — all mishap free.

The ship earned the Battle "E" award for 2002, even with turnovers in leadership. Commanding Officer Capt. Kendall Card took command upon entering 5th Fleet in November 2002, three

Recap CORNER

Plant identification signs

We will install permanent plant identification signs for the plants and shrubs in the Park-Playground next to the Stephen Decatur School this month. The signs will identify the plants in English, Italian and Latin. The temporary paper signs that were placed next to the plants when they were installed will be removed. The signs are designed to be educational and informative. Many of the landscaping materials we used in the Park-Playground area are used throughout the base and the signs will help to our community to become familiar with the plants on base.

How SIG 2.3 Affects You: For the rest of the school year, until June 12, the school busses will use the loop road around the NAS 1 Park to pickup and deliver students from 7:15 to 8 a.m. and from 2 to 3 p.m. each school day. We ask for your cooperation to keep the road clear. PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE LOOP ROAD. Utilities work will continue on Halsey Road in front of the Stephen Decatur School through the end of June. Please be careful in this area, stay on the sidewalk, and do not try to pick up or drop off your children in this area.

If you have any questions about SIG 2.3 construction, contact Lt. Darren Hale at haled@nassig.sicily.navy.mil.

Thrift Savings Plan open season

15 April – 30 June is TSP open season.

Money doesn't grow on trees, but like a seed a small amount invested today into TSP, can grow to put food on your plate tomorrow.

Good reasons to sign up for TSP:

- Contributions can be set up automatically
- Contributions are before tax.
- Contributions grow tax-deferred.
- The TSP has very low administrative costs and expenses.
- The TSP is easy to start and to allocate and re-allocate money
- You can take the money with you, if you leave the service.
- Through tax-deferred investing you can take advantage of the magic of 'Compound Interest' and Time.

For more information contact your departmental CFS or the NASSIG Command CFS @ 624-2363 or check out the web @ [\[www.tsp.gov\]](http://www.tsp.gov).

Navy may reduce carrier presence, Iraqi Freedom winds down

By Gerry J. Gilmore,
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The U.S. Navy may reduce the number of aircraft carriers deployed in the Gulf region if Operation Iraqi Freedom air strike requirements draw down, the commander of coalition naval forces said April 12.

"The prosecution of air-to-ground targets is decreasing somewhat as the campaign reaches a certain phase of completion," Vice Adm. Timothy Keating told Pentagon reporters during a satellite news teleconference from Bahrain.

"If the sortie requirement goes down, then we'll be able to pull

[some] carriers off the line and send them home," Keating pointed out.

He noted the Navy launched nearly 200 air sorties April 11. Any reduction of carrier forces, he pointed out, would be dependent on mission requirements.

Keating emphasized that Army Gen. Tommy Franks, the overall commander of Operation Iraqi Freedom, would have to approve any carrier redeployments.

Currently, the five carriers deployed in the Persian Gulf or eastern Mediterranean Sea are USS Nimitz (CVN 68), USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), USS Constellation (CV 64) and USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63), Keating remarked.

News Briefs

Now Accepting Applications

Seaman to Admiral 21 is now accepting applications from eligible candidates. Speak with your chain of command, department Career Counselor, the Command Career Counselor's Office, or visit <http://www.sta-21.navy.mil> for more information.

New Service Available at the Hospital

Varicose vein treatment is now being offered every Friday from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. on a first come first serve basis. Treatments take about five to 10 minutes. Usually a total of four to five treatments are required.

Financial Specialist Course

Think you know it all about money? Become your command's Financial Specialist. Learn more about finances and pass it on to your shipmates. Classes are May 5 to 9 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Retention Center. Requires no cost TAD orders or approved request chit for E-6 and above, W-2/0-1 or civilian counterparts only. There are limited seats so sign up early. Call MM1(SW) Nieves at 624-2363 or FFSC at 624-4291.

Office Assistant, NMCRS Sigonella.

NMCRS Sigonella has an immediate opening for a part-time (35 hrs/wk) Office Assistant. Applicant must be command-sponsored spouse of active duty/civilian component personnel and U.S. citizen with sojourn permit or U.S. citizen with family sojourn/work permit. Ideal candidate must possess: HS diploma/GED, hands-on experience in data entry/word processing, strong organizational/administrative skills, experience working with volunteer staff and experience utilizing interviewing techniques. Previous experience with NMCRS and knowledge of military pay/allowance systems is highly desirable. Starting salary: Mid 20's plus OCOLA. Fax resume/application to NMCRS Headquarters by April 16, to: 703-696-0144. Applications may be picked up at the NMCRS Sigonella Office, Building T210, NAS I.

THE ENERGY BLOCK

Spring is here and summer is around the corner..Now is the time to be forming a plan for leave. **When out of town, turn it down.** If you are going to be out of town for over 24 hours turn your appliances down or off to save money. Turn off air conditioners, heaters, waterbed heaters, fans, lights, and small appliances. Do this not only because you're saving energy, but also for safety. If you are going to be away for a longer period of time, do the above plus turn down or off the water heater per manufacturers instructions and the gas line that may be running into the house.

Save energy at home. Teach your children how to become energy wise, by having them turn off lights, TVs, VCRs, and computers when finished using them. Keep a list of snacks on the fridge to limit door openings.

***DID YOU KNOW:** Approximately 80 percent of the energy consumed by a dishwasher is used to heat the water; a typical dishwasher uses 14 gallons of hot water per load.

***DID YOU KNOW:** A typical soda machine uses 120 watts of non-essential lighting, costing more than \$73 per machine each year. If only one tenth of the 400,000 DOD buildings took out a soda machine lamp, almost \$3 million could be saved annually.

LETS USE, NOT ABUSE



Sailors from USS Abraham Lincoln's Weapons Department move bombs in the hangar bay.



By Alberto Lunetta
Signature Staff

Italian News

Sicilian culture and lifestyle

Easter celebrations in Enna evoke ancient Spanish traditions

In Enna, the *Settimana Santa* (Holy Week) is undoubtedly the most important event in the city's religious calendar. The processions that take place throughout the week are the highlights of the tradition. Easter week visitors will remain impressed with the splendor of the traditional costumes, the decorations and the intensity of the devotee's mysticism. Every year, thousands of pilgrims visit Enna to see hooded devotees, belonging to different city's *Confraternite* (confraternities), walking slowly in procession through the streets of the historic center. City bands playing mournful melodies accompany them. Confraternities are citizen's associations resembling medieval guilds and dating back to the period of the Spanish rule (15 to 17th century) that still perpetuate the local ancient Easter traditions. Over the centuries, these associations have been tasked with promoting and organizing the city's religious and charitable activities. In the past, they played a leading role in the social life of the town providing spiritual and material assistance to the poor and the sick or yet to the ones sentenced to death. In 1740, there were 34 confraternities. Today, there are only 15 and they include *Confrati* (members of the confraternities) belonging to all ranks and classes with the only exception of women's admittance. In the past, confraternities were mainly composed of sulphur miners and farmers. The color of the dresses and the mantel worn during the processions, have a particular meaning that can be related either to the cult of their own patron saint or to the role that they played in the past.

On Good Friday (April 18) at 4:45 p.m., the "Confraternity of the Passion" begins the procession carrying the 24 symbols of Jesus' martyrdom that are called "mysteries." They include: the cross, the purse with thirty silver coins, the crown, the lantern, the rooster, the nails, and the scourges. The procession, which leaves

from the Church of Saint Leonardo, heads toward the *Duomo* or cathedral. As the confraternity proceeds in penitence along via Roma through the narrow streets of the city, the other fourteen *Confraternite* join in this mournful religious parade. The procession follows a definite order as the confraternities parade from the most recent to the oldest. Over 2,000 hooded penitents parade, in complete silence, until they reach the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows where a statue depicting the Virgin Mary is preserved. Then, this statue is taken to the cathedral where an *Urna* (urn) containing a statue of dead Christ has been previously placed. At 7 p.m., the procession leaves from the cathedral and reaches the Church of St. Paolini near the cemetery, where a benediction is given with the Reliquary cross, which according to the tradition encloses a thorn from the crown of Christ. Eventually, the procession returns to the Cathedral.

On April 19, the *Paci* (peace), a ceremony symbolizing the encounter of the statues of Christ resurrected with the Virgin Mary, begins at 6 p.m. The two statues carried on the shoulders of confraternity members are taken from the churches of S. Salvatore and S. Giuseppe to piazza Mazzini where the *Paci* will be staged. As soon as Christ appears, the black veil covering the statue of the Lady of Sorrows comes down. At that point, the statues run toward each other and later are taken inside the Cathedral.

On Easter Sunday (April 20), after the "Blessing of the Fields" ceremony that is performed at the foot of the Lombard Castle, the *Spartenza* (separation) takes place at 6 p.m. in piazza Mazzini. It is a ceremony during which the two statues part and return to the churches where they are usually kept. For more information call 0935-528288.

Easter Drama staged in Adrano

The eternal conflict between the forces of good and the evil is the theme of the *Diavolata* (from the word

diavolo or devil), an 18th century spectacular religious drama, in Sicilian language, that is staged on Easter Sunday (April 20) at noon and at 8 p.m. The performance is held in piazza Umberto, the square located between the Norman Castle and the cathedral. Five devils, the soul, which is represented by a little girl, the death (an actor wearing a skeleton costume) and the angel acted by a little boy, are the main characters of the drama. In the background of the stage, a frightening devil face and an empty grave are displayed. Smoke is given off during the performance. The characters engage in fighting and arguing amongst each other. The drama has an allegoric meaning: the Passion of Jesus rescued mankind from the original sin. Consequently, the devils and death are terrified by the resurrection of Christ. However, they still try to convince mankind, by any means necessary, to give up Jesus' salvation. At that point Gabriel, the archangel, storms the scene and defeats the forces of evil by symbolically breaking the bow held by death in two. Gabriel also forces them to pronounce the prayer that says *Viva Maria, la speranza dell'uomo*, (long live to the Virgin Mary, the hope of mankind). This invocation ends the performance. Following the *Diavolata*, the *Angelicata*, (from the word *angelo* or angel) is held. A background displaying heaven replaces the previous gloomy setting of the stage. This play represents the meeting, surrounded by angels and saints, between the Virgin Mary and Christ. This meeting seals the triumph of good over evil. *U Sparu*, (the shot) an amazing firework show ends the drama. For more info call Adrano tourist Office at 095-7606204.

Renaissance times come to life during San Gregorio Easter festivities

On April 21, you will have the chance to hop into a time machine and zip back 400 years to enjoy an amazing Renaissance festival in San Gregorio. This spectacular festival features parades, performances and dance shows

that will be staged according to the descriptions of the will of *Alvaro Paternò* and his brother-in-law *Their*, two noblemen belonging to the Paternò dynasty, who ruled the territory of San Gregorio from 1431 to 1502. Festivities kick off at 4 p.m. in Piazza Marconi (main square) with the performance of the Renaissance dancers that is followed by a spectacular parade featuring 180 costumed street actors portraying period costumes and armors. Highlights also include a jousting tournament featuring a competition among the five city's *Rioni* (districts) that is held near the local soccer stadium at 6 p.m. For more information call the San Gregorio Town Hall at 095-7219111.



Photo courtesy of Enna Tourist Office

The *Settimana Santa* (Holy Week) is a major religious event in Enna. Processions featuring hooded devotees belonging to the local city's *Confraternite* (confraternities) walking slowly in procession through the streets of the historic center, which take place throughout the week, are the highlights of the tradition.

SUNDAYMONAYTUESDAYWEDNESDAYTHURSDAYFRIDAYSATURDAY							
COMMUNITY CALENDAR					18	Parent-Teacher Conferences all grades	
					APRIL		
					19	AOSC Talent Show Live Wire 6 p.m.	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Happy Easter		National Jelly Bean Day free jelly beans all day Take 5	Science Club 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. 205 Teen Center	Patti Shopping ITT Call 624-4396	Health Fair 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. NAS II Gym Call 624-4710	PJ's & Pancakes 10 a.m. to noon for kids under five BLAST	
27	28	29	30	1	2	3	
Palma di Montechiaro & La Modonna del Castello Festival ITT Call 624-4396	Movie, Volleyball, & barbecue 7:30 p.m. NAS I Pavilion	Italian Dine-out depart 7:30 p.m. Liberty Call 624-4331	National Oatmeal Cookie Day free cookies while supplies last Take 5	MAY Cruise the Aeolian Islands ITT Call 624-4396	Wine Tasting & Chinese Restaurant ITT Call 624-4396	Lentini Shopping depart 8 a.m. ITT Call 624-4396	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Outdoor Flea Market 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. location TBA Call 624-4271	Cinco de Mayo	Pre-Teen Torch Club ages 10-12 3:30 to 4 p.m. 205 Youth Center	IL Barbiere di Siviglia by Gioachino Rossi Opera Performance ITT Call 624-4396		Bike Maintenance 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. AU Call 624-4271		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Mother's Day							

NCIS from page 1

and I respect him very much,” said Pizzino. Likewise, Lomonaco considers Pizzino a friend and colleague. “It’s hard to say where being one starts and the other ends,” said Lomonaco. “It’s an honor to be considered one of his friends.”

Pizzino said he enjoys being out in the field, and does not want a management position at this time. “I wouldn’t be working in the field,” he said. “I would miss being in the trenches.”

Future plans for Pizzino include a position at the U.S. embassy in Rome as a NCIS representative. “I’m 95 per-cent sure I want the job,” he said. He is looking forward to the position because he will be able to interact with Italy’s highest authorities.

A smile comes to his face when he mentions his hob-bies “sports cars and fine cigars.” When someone com-mented that he should quit smoking cigars, he just stated “I’ve been smoking cigars since 1971. My only regret is not having started sooner.”

When asked how he likes doing his job, a smile comes to his face again. “I like what I’m doing, let me tell you how much,” said Pizzino. “I like it so much that everyday I hope the clock moves slower. The days go by like hours.” He said he fights with the clock to move more slowly. “When I leave the house, I can’t wait to get to work,” he said. “I like Mondays because I have the whole week ahead of me.”

Pizzino is honored to have won the award, and a bit surprised. “What are the chances of a guy in Sicily win-ning?” said Pizzino. “It’s a great honor. To be recognized nationally is the best one can expect.”

“It couldn’t have gone to a better person,” said Lomonaco. He added that awards are not the reason Pizzino does what he does, they are the consequence. “He’s not trying to make a name for himself.”

Like Nathan Hale before him, Pizzino’s only regret is that I can’t do more for my country.”

First Termers from page 1

ors with a variety of web-based tools. The site in-cludes areas for finance, personnel development, Task Force Excel, and many other things first term and other Sailors can utilize for their careers. “I spent two hours in disbelief of all that was on it,” said AMC (AW) Christopher Sears during his presenta-tion of the web portal. He said the site provides a valuable resource for Sailors. “You don’t have to rely on someone else to answer questions.”

Another topic raised was the Perform to Serve program. The program will initially apply to first-term Sailors in CREO Group three ratings, but later extend to groups one and two. “It’s a Navy right sizing tool to get those over manned rates manned at the appropriate levels,” said Carter. Perform to Serve will point Sailors in the right direction in regards to their careers, said Carter. “You’re trying to get those personnel in the over manned rates to focus on pos-sibly converting to the undermanned rates,” he said. “Under this perform to serve, you’re going to get a nudge in the right direction. You have to focus on the fact that it’s a Navy right-shaping and right-sizing tool, not a means to get rid of people in over manned ratings,” said Carter. “It’s a way to help you grow by going in a direction that you’ll be able to grow.”

Many other ideas and programs were presented during the course. Some Sailors were happy they attended the workshop. “I’m glad I’m here,” said Ruiz. “And that there are other options to look at. It is pretty informative.” Carter said everyone can get something out of the workshop. “The people that come here because they’re told by their chain of com-mand that they have to come, find out once they’re here that this was something they got something out of.”

The workshop serves to empower Sailors to take more responsibility for their careers. “And by giving them this information, we give them more tools so that they can take more ownership in what their de-cision making process is going to be based on,” said Carter. “It gives them research tools to utilize.”

Carter said first term Sailors should attend the workshop as soon as they can. “The sooner some-one comes, the more benefit they can derive from it,” said Carter. “We have a lot of people who are here for a year, year and a half, and they haven’t been to the first termers success workshop. You should really try and come within your first six months. That way if there’s a program that you’re interested in utilizing, you’ve got a better jump on it.”

For information on the next First Termer’s Suc-cess Workshop, contact your career counselor.

For more information on Perform to Serve, visit the website <http://www.bupers.navy.mil/navadmin/nav03/nav03050.txt>.

Visit Navy Knowledge Online at the website <http://www.nko.navy.mil>.

Chaplain from page 1

Wesley Myhand.

Myhand enjoys his first duty station and the responsibilities that come with his job. “I really en-joy the ministry, it is really diverse. It is a whole different approach,” he explained.

“Bloom where you are planted” is his motto and live by his motto is exactly what he does. Before joining the military as a chaplain, Myhand was busy serving as a Southern Baptist Preacher in Okalahoma for four years. Prior to his time in Oklahoma you would have found him working in South Africa as a missionary, where he met his wife. Active in church, his experiences also include being a Sunday School teacher and a Youth Minster.

It was one day and a unique approach that found Myhand applying for the military chaplain position.

One day while reading his e-mails he came upon a small form letter in his junk mail. “It said ‘would

you be interested in being a Navy Chaplain.’ My wife told me that we would not get it so go ahead and fill it out and send it in. Next thing we knew, recruit-ers started calling...we just thought this is what God had in store for us.”

In June 2001, Myhand was in chaplain school with no prior military experience.

Chaplain Myhand has an open door policy and encourages Sailors and their families to stop by. Be-sides conducting Protestant Services, he acts as a counselor for a variety of topics including marriage counseling and for those who just need to talk. People who stop by can be assured everything is held in confidence. “What is said to us (Religious Ministries Department) stays with us,” stated Myhand.

Myhand also has a healthy relationship with the Religious Petty Officers that he works with. On PT (physical readiness) days he can be found running or working out with his shipmates. “It gives them a chance to unwind and as a chaplain, if I can’t minister to the people that I work with how can I minister to the community,” said Myhand.

“I really appreciate the working relationship with the RP’s and everything they do for the Chaplain Department. Whether it is setting up for services or doing other errands, they really stay busy.”

To the people that work with Chaplain Myhand he is a friendly down to earth guy. “He is a very innovative Chaplain... a real asset to the department,” said RPCS Johnnie Hicks.

Myhand advises Sailors who are at their first duty station, “Do not get caught up in the traffic trying to take care of depression or the things you can’t understand. Try to surround yourselves with friends and church and family. Most importantly allow your self to be open to a new country and enjoy the culture. Take advantage of the ser-vices the base offers and the traveling opportunities. Bloom where you are planted.”

Trivia Answers

- 1) Left 2) Lincoln Logs
3) Wrigley’s Gum 4) The Tongan
Island of Niuatoputapu is moving at
almost 10 inches per year
5) **** (Four stars) a 1967 release
by Andy Warhol had a run time of 25
hours

Word Find

Famous Writers

R E L L I H C S N O V A W M O D J R V X K U N K V
C I R X V U L D P Y R S F R H N N G E J S E P O D
H W U A U W X R K A M T W Y M A V A R L I M N L U
G T R F E F C S A B W E F S P D W H T K L G F F M
T W O Z K P V H I G L I Y N Q L K T O S O E V A A
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R Z U T P E I E K I R E D B E E E H B Y R O N G Y
N O S N E V E T S A W C I M W G E C H K B N S N Y
W O R E L L I M A X H K E M L Z E U R Z I N E I P
D T F I W S H E N R E S H R K T O Q Q A A N E L B
L L O R R A C G V L C I C E A I E L C R N Y G A X
S H E L L E Y M O N O O S K C F E D O A A E X S E
O W B A N Z W Z D L K C O O P E R M L U N M F P H
Q N T S E J Z N A X D K R T O B K R Y I B I E K U
H H S X C Q A A U L N I H S F M R I A M W J D R G
C F V H L L A B S R D H N B R O N T E M U Z R E O
Q K Z Z W H K E T R I L F G Z Z C Q T N I J X Z W
J G J O X A Y G E M C V I A O H M S C A J L O I H
Z Z R S M Q K E N U K R Q W A T A M W I K G T H J
Q H E M I N G W A Y E M S U W V J H O S P K D O P
P W W H X S F U V Z N P C A H U B M O K C Y T J N
V H F U P D M W Q K S E I Z T K A H L S M J G I S
N J O N U Q P W R T R N J N X K M G T Z O U L Q K
Y F E O R S T W W V N J V S V X J Z Q V T X Y X U

- | | | | | |
|---------|------------|----------|-------------|--------------|
| AUSTEN | DOSTOEVS | LEE | SCHEIDT | TWAIN |
| BRONTE | DUMAS | MILLER | SHAARA | VON GOETHE |
| BURNS | FITZGERALD | MILTON | SHAKESPEARE | VON SCHILLER |
| BYRON | GOLDING | MORAN | SHELLEY | WILDE |
| CARROLL | HAWTHORNE | ORWELL | STEINBECK | |
| CHAUCE | HELLER | REMARQUE | STEVENSON | |
| COOPER | HEMINGWAY | ROSTAND | STOKER | |
| CRANE | HUGO | ROWLAND | SWIFT | |
| DICKENS | KING | SALINGER | TOKIEN | |

Shout

DoDDs students talk about what's happening in the community

Graduates of SDS need your help

The Sigonella Community Scholarship Council administers a scholarship fund for the graduates of the Stephen Decatur School to defray the cost of higher education. The Council is comprised of volunteer community members who "seek, administer, and distribute funds as full or partial scholarships" for Stephen Decatur graduates. Due to the generosity of the Sigonella community, in 2002 we awarded five scholarships totaling \$15,000. Since last year, the cost of higher education has increased by some 17%!

Our goal is to raise \$20,000 or more for scholarship awards in 2003! Commands, organizations, or individuals may donate to the Sigonella Community Scholarship Fund using the attached form. The Council's by-laws prohibit it from engaging in fund-raising activities. We strongly encourage you to donate or to sponsor a fund-raiser in support of the scholarship fund drive. Commands and organizations that pledge funds may also designate a member to serve as a Selection Advisor. The Selection Advisors are responsible for choosing scholarship recipients. Selection Advisors may not be parents or guardians of scholarship applicants.

Please make a generous pledge to the Sigonella Community Scholarship Fund today!

The officers of the Sigonella Community Scholarship Council thank you for supporting the 2003 graduates of Stephen Decatur School. For more information, please email mmontopoli@hotmail.com or phone 624-5331.

Youth center good for kids

By AN Michelle Hartgraves
Staff Writer

Have you hugged your kids today? Throughout this month you might noticed that there are activities just around every corner to celebrate military children.

One facility that celebrates children not only during this month but also throughout the year is the 205 Youth Activity Center. They provide a vast array of programs for all ages.

BLAST or Bridging Leisure and After School currently have 65 to 75 children enrolled. The Pre-Teen program has about 35 members. The Pre-teen program is offered to children from kindergarten to 12 years of age. According to Kathleen Turner, Youth Activities Director, the goal is to provide the community with childcare.

Kids can walk in from the street as long as they are signed up in any of the programs. Both BLAST and the Pre-teen program are free.

Parents interested in enrolling their children can come in any time the Youth Center is open. If there is no space available they can get their children on the waiting list at the Shady Corner CDC building across from the Youth Center.

The youth center plans activities throughout the years such as barbecues and the Camp Adventure Summer Camp that will be held this summer. "We want to provide as much support to the community to provide the military members needs," said Turner.

Other services include scheduled Parents Night Outs as well as offering piano and ballet classes. Powerhour is a time when kids can come after school while the parents are working to get help with homework. They also have sport programs available.

No matter what is going on at the Youth Center, their main focus is on the children. Since being a military child means time away from working parents, the Youth Center continues to expand to provide the needs of the children.

"It is important to remember that although this is the Month of Military Child, everyday is a day to hug a child. You never know what is going to happen on a day-to-day basis, so you need to cherish your child," stated Turner.

Fri. April 18

Visit Enna on Good Friday with ITT. See Sicily's most famous and unforgettable Good Friday procession in Enna, which boasts a spectacular panoramic view of the island. Call ITT at x4398/x4777 for more information.

Travel to the small village of Pietrapezia with ITT on Good Friday. Signuri di li fasci is a procession that attracts thousands of visitors each year and features the raising of a huge tree outside the church.

Sat. April 19

Tour Agrigento's temples, most of which are still in remarkable condition. Afterwards, have lunch at a typical Sicilian restaurant while being entertained by a Sicilian folk group. Call ITT at x4398/x4777 for more information.

Sun. April 20

Visit St. Biagio Platani to admire and taste some of the special Easter bread baked in the form of angels, doves, bells and more. Afterwards, visit the most important prehistoric archeological center in Sicily, St. Angelo Muxaro. Call ITT at x4398/x4777 for more information.

Strap on your bunny ears and search for Easter Eggs - in the dark! Play games for big prizes in Take 5 after the hunt. Meet at the pavilion across from Take 5 at 8:30 p.m.

Mon. April 21

It's BINGO night at 5:30 p.m. at Live Wire. Come early for a good seat.

Tues. April 22

It's National Jelly Bean Day! Stop by Take 5 all day for free jelly beans while supplies last.

Weds. April 23

Yee Haw! It's country night at Live Wire on NAS I. Kick up your boots and dance the night away to the latest and classic country tunes.

Thurs. April 24

It's music video and Jerry Springer night at Live Wire. Enjoy the hottest new videos and see the "Ring Master" in action.

TRIVIA

With what foot did astronaut Neil Armstrong first step on the Moon?
Architect Frank Lloyd Wright's son invented what popular toy?
What was the first product to have a bar code?
What is the fastest moving landmass on the planet?
What was the longest film ever released?
(Answers on page 5)

Movie Connection

MOVIE's Theater Schedule

Friday, April 18



1 p.m.
Jungle Book 2 (G) **



5:30 p.m.
How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (PG-13)



8 p.m.
Dark Blue (R) **

Saturday, April 19



2 p.m.
The Recruit (PG-13)



4:30 p.m.
Shanghai Knights (PG-13)



7 p.m.
Biker Boyz (PG-13)



9:30 p.m.
Dream Catcher (R)

Sunday, April 20



1 p.m.
Jungle Book 2 (G)



3:30 p.m.
Dare Devil (PG-13)



6 p.m.
About Schmidt (R)

Monday, April 21



5:30 p.m.
Biker Boyz (PG-13)



8 p.m.
Dream Catcher (R)

Tuesday, April 22



5:30 p.m.
Dare Devil (PG-13)



8 p.m.
The Recruit (PG-13)

Wednesday, April 23



5:30 p.m.
About Schmidt (R) *



8 p.m.
Shanghai Knights (PG-13)

Thursday, April 24



5:30 p.m.
Darkness Falls (PG-13) *



8 p.m.
Biker Boyz (PG-13)

Friday, April 18



5:30 p.m.
Anger Management (PG-13) **



8 p.m.
Old School (R) **



10 p.m.
Dark Blue (R)

*** Future Re-release **Sneak Preview *Last Showing

(All times and movies are subject to change. For more information on the schedule, call the movie hotline at

This Week on

Sat. Apr 19 - NBA Playoffs

AFN Atlantic 6:30 PM

Sun. Apr 20 - MLB: Phillies @ Braves

AFN Atlantic 7:00 PM

Tue. Apr 22 - Movie: Titan A.E.

AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

Wed. Apr 23 - Bachelorette

AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

Fri. Apr 25 - Survivor

AFN Atlantic 8:00 PM

CHECK OUT AFN'S NEW INTERACTIVE WEBSITE AT AFNEUROPE.NET/SIGONELLA

TUNE INTO THE VOID MORNING SHOW ON 106.0 ZFM MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

6 AM - 9 AM

afneurope.net/sigonella